

**Minutes for the Health and Wellness Committee of Commission on Aging
Meeting on January 4, 2022**

CoA Attendees:

Neal Brown, Barbara Selter, Marsha Weber, Eddie Rivas, Tina Purser Langley, Shawn Brennan, Wayne Berman, David Engel, Jean Dinwiddie, Joyce Dubow, Kendell Mathews, Virginia Cain, Rev Vikram, Laurie Pross;

Guests: Marcia Pruzan; Mona Negm; and Monique Gardiner

The meeting opened by reviewing the “ In Home “ programs on which the COA had received presentations:

- IHAS, in Gaithersburg, lite care in HOC buildings

- Community Reach- based in Rockville

- Home Care Plus, in Friends House in Silver Spring & in Kentlands in Gaithersburg; difficult model financially and is a loss leader; conceptually interesting because it allows flexibility in the number of hours any one client has as a minimum- flex care

- Meals on Wheels- some “ branches “ offer not only meals but friendly calls, home repairs, grocery shopping and even pet care.

- Pace program-extensive wrap around services for dual ly eligible individuals (Medicare & Medicaid);

Holy Cross had applied- status unclear at this point.

- Capable program- (Hopkins affiliated-?) case management

The next topic was the upcoming Forum : “ Home and Community-Based Services”

- it is being planned as an in- person event

- several people expressed the opinion that there should be a virtual back up plan in place in view of the unpredictable Covid situation. Agreement all around.
- COA may record the next Forum and it may lend itself to a fact sheet such as the one that came out of the Social Isolation Forum.
- there are procurement issues at present
- Garrett Co has received funding for hearing aids
- Baltimore City has received case management funding
- Barbara suggested that MOU's and sole source contracts are possible ways around the current issues.
- there is new legislation coming pertaining to dental care

The next segment of the meeting was devoted to topics for 2022:

Suggestions were as follows:

Prescription drug costs

Medical supply costs

Wound care costs

Workforce structure

Equitable pay and economic viability in home care industry

Zip codes are being linked to certain chronic diseases- importance of data

Synergy between COA & Age Friendly- - COA provides the advocacy piece to what Age Friendly does

Fragmentation of health care system!

Aging Life Care Managers

Palliative Medicine

End of Life as presented by a Geriatrician

Ombudsperson for Home and Community - possibly a problem- solving position.

Additional suggestions should be submitted to the co-chairs by January 14th, 2022.